

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-13 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3 and 9 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. In this response, Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 9 into independent form and cancelled claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-13. Accordingly, claims 3 and 9 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 3 "claims 1, 7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Takeda et al. (US 2003/0218794 A1) in view of Yoshinaga et al. (US Patent 6,961,038 B2) in view of Pate et al. (US 7,391,475 B2)." Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the overly broad interpretation of the cited prior art, in order to expedite prosecution Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 7 and 13 thus rendering this rejection moot. Although not specifically mentioned at page 2, paragraph 3, claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 were rejected in the body of the Office Action on page 4. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 thus rendering these rejections moot.

The Office Action sets forth at page 5, paragraph 4 "claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda in view of Yoshinaga in view of Pate ... and further in view of Shigeta (US 2002/0008712 A1)." Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection, in order to expedite prosecution Applicants have cancelled claims 6 and 12 thus rendering the rejection moot.

As stated above, Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 9 into independent form. These claims were indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

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In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above Applicants admit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Etkowicz', is written over a horizontal line.

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